

16 53. (ONCE AMENDED) The point management system according to claim 52, wherein the service contents storage means stores the point information comprising target points for a service requested by the customer, the customer's [cumulative] accumulated points, and shortage points relative to the customer's target.

ADD H8

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed February 17, 1999, claims 51, 54, 55, and 60-62 were objected to because of informalities, claims 1-55, 58, 62, and 64 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112(2) as being indefinite, claims 1-9, 11, 13-16, 21-23, 27, 31, 36, 38-40, 45-49, 51, and 54-63 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Vision Value by Advanced Promotion Technologies, claims 10 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Vision Value in view of Utsunomiya, U.S. Patent No. 5,034,596, and claims 19, 20, 41-44, and 64 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Vision Value in view of Malec, U.S. Patent No. 5,287,266.

In the Office Action Summary of the February 17, 1999 Action, the Examiner asserts that claims 1-64 are pending, and that all of claims 1-64 are rejected. On the subsequent pages of the Action, the Examiner asserts substantive rejections of the claims.

However, in the Office Action mailed June 25, 1996, in the parent application (U.S. Serial No. 08/187,543), the Examiner (a different Examiner than is named in the February 17 Action) withdrew from consideration claims 4-10, 12, 19-20, 23-30, and 32-39 based on the Restriction Requirement mailed July 20, 1995 (also in the parent application). The Examiner

prior subsequently included claim 31/1 within the elected group of claims, in the Office Action mailed March 25, 1996 in the parent application.

Since the February 17, 1999 Action indicated as such, it is assumed that all of claims 1-64 are pending in the above-mentioned application (an FWC under Rule 62 of the parent application). The Examiner is respectfully requested to clarify.

Claims 1-16, 19-23, 27, 31, 36, 38-49, 51 and 54-64 are cancelled. The foregoing objections to claims 17, 18, 24-26, 28-30, 32-35, 37, 50, 52, and 53 are traversed.

Claims 17, 18, 24-26, 28, 50, and 52 are amended into independent form, and are independent claims. Claims 29/28, 30/28, 32/30, 33/30, 34/30, 35/30, 37/35, 53/52 are dependent claims.

Claims 17, 18, 24-26, 28-30, 50, 52, and 53 are amended, taking the Examiner's comments made in the Action, and the Examiner's further comments on the Draft Claim Amendments to claims 17, 18, 24-26, 28-30, 50, and 52 previously presented to the Examiner, into consideration.

Also in the Action, the Examiner asserted that claims 17, 18, 24-26, 28-30, 32-35, 37, 50, 52, and 53 would be allowable if amended to overcome the foregoing objections and §112(2) rejections. The foregoing claims having been so amended, it is understood and therefore submitted that claims 17, 18, 24-26, 28-30, 32-35, 37, 50, 52, and 53 are allowable, and that the application is in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the above-referenced application is in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Serial No. 08/864,762


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If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this Amendment, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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